

MaineCare Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2022

10:00 a.m. to 11:59 a.m.

Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

II. ROLL CALL

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Laurie Belden; Theresa Cahill; Rachel Collamore; Laura Cordes; Jamie Cotnoir; Nancy Cronin for Rachel Dyer; Leo Delicata; Cathy Dionne; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Kate Ende; Mark Eves; Suzanne Farley; Candy Henderly; Jillian Jolicoeur; Sarah Lewis; Vicki McCarty; Esther Miller; Beth Pearce; Malory Shaughnessy; Sara Squires for Atlee Reilly; Piper Stiles; Jeff Tiner; and David Winslow.

Department: Erik Eisele; Amanda Lee; Jenny Patterson; Michelle Probert; and Molly Slotznick.

Guests: Therese Cahill; Elizabeth Cameron; Alex Carter; Susan Cheff; Jennifer Christian; Kate Christiansen; Mikenzie Dwyer; Suzanne Farley; Cathy Hamilton; Kalie Hess; Brooke Holton; Bethany Jarvis; Diane Johanson; Becca Matusovich; Dan Morin; Pete Plummer; Amanda Richards; Nicole St. Hilaire; Bonnie Vaughan; and Susan White

III. NEW BUSINESS

a.) DHHS Updates With Michelle Probert

- The Department anticipates the PHE will extend into April.
- Maine was selected by the National Association of Medicaid Directors to receive a Spotlight Award for the innovative rate reform work the State has done.
- If you're not signed up to receive the Department's e-messages, please do so. Regular MaineCare updates are posted through the e-message system.
- During the latest PC Plus application opportunity MaineCare received applications from eleven new practices as well as applications from 29 practices seeking to move to another tier.

b.) MAC Membership Appointments—Erik Eisele

- In the next few weeks the Department will be sending out appointment letters for MAC seats. If you are a current MAC member from an advocacy group you should be expecting to receive a reappointment letter. If you want to change the appointee for your organization, reach out to Erik Eisele.

- The Department is working to create a specific space for members within the MaineCare Advisory Committee, and would like to do the same sort of thing for providers. The Department is proposing the creation of a provider subcommittee(s), with representation to the MAC either through one of the provider representative advocacy groups or possibly through a provider.
- The MAC discussed what the structure of the MaineCare Advisory Committee might look like going forward, and the best way to make room for voices from members and providers so that all perspectives can be represented. Michelle noted that the states that seem to be the most successful with actively incorporating member voices into their Medicaid programs have dedicated member committees. In our case, such a member subcommittee would link to the larger MAC, just like with other subcommittees.
- The discussion will be revisited in January.
- The MAC is in need of a volunteer to chair the provider subcommittee. Also, please be considering what MAC items might move to that space and what items would remain with the primary MAC Committee.

c.) **Rate System Updates**

- Michelle noted the rate setting website will soon be updated. A notice will go out when the work is completed.
- A question was posed regarding the next minimum wage increase that is due to go into effect January 1, 2023. Will the 125% direct care worker rate be increased in tandem automatically? What should providers expect? Jenny responded that the rate will be in effect 1/1/23.
- Amanda presented a rate system timeline update. Of note:
 - Adult family care homes is scheduled for a January 12, 2023 presentation.
 - The RFP for CBHC has been submitted.
 - The Family Planning rate process is ongoing.
 - The contracting process is underway for Nursing facilities.
 - Rates for Section 23 have been presented to the public.

Rate subcommittee updates with Laura Cordes

- The next meeting will be held December 19th at 2:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend.
- At the last meeting, the sub-committee reviewed the new MaineCare Rate Setting webpage.
- The sub-committee discussed rate studies and timing.
- The sub-committee discussed the rounding rule that is effective January 1. Their recommendation is that there be an additional delay in the roll-out. They noted there are software vendors and providers who are short staffed and having difficulty catching their systems up to accommodate the changes.

d.) **Rulemaking/Waivers/SPA Packet—Jennifer Patterson**

- Jenny pointed out that the rule packet highlights rules with open comment periods as well as rules that have been adopted since the last MAC meeting.

- Chapters II and III of Section 65 were adopted since the last MAC meeting.
- Section 106 is on track to be proposed early in the new year. The Department is hoping to hold one more stake holder session on the rule prior to proposing it.
- Dean Bugaj has moved into a new role as an associate director of OCF for Children's and Behavioral Health.
- Tia Bolduc has assumed the role of EPSDT Coordinator for the Policy unit.

e.) **Communications Updates—Erik Eisele**

- Erik noted the Rate Setting website will be updated to include links to critical resources and important dates for any rate determination process.
- Erik noted the Department is developing marketing materials and video assets that will feature stories of MaineCare members and the impact that MaineCare has made in their lives. Some MAC members may be getting a form to nominate folks to participate in the campaign.

f.) **Cost Challenges With ER Visits—Jillian Jolicoeur**

- Jillian noted there has been an increase in ER visits. She shared that in many cases the only way a member who has no one to give them a ride to a physician's office can get medical care is to call 911 and get transportation to the ER via ambulance. She's like to know what can be done to increase people's ability to seek care through other settings? Molly noted that we do have NET as an option, and we encourage members to call their broker for non-emergency transportation if they are trying to access rides through NET and are not able to. The Department meets with the brokers regularly, and the brokers do their best to try and troubleshoot issues but they need specifics—the member's name; date of the attempted ride, etc.
- Cathy Hamilton shared that from a Section 60 perspective, transportation is very much an issue for DME beneficiaries, particularly for Complex Rehab users. Jillian shared that she has high end users in BHH that can't access rides, decreasing the efficiency of the BHH.

g.) **Items From Guests.**

None

h.) **Wrap Up**

- The next MAC meeting will be held Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 10:00 AM

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain Del Rio adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.